

REMARKS

Claims 1- 31 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In an Official Action dated December 2, 2004, claims 1-31 were rejected. Applicants thank Examiner for examination of the claims pending in this application and addresses Examiner's comments below.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include "wherein a signal extractor of one of the at least two heterodyne receivers comprises a bandpass filter, a square law device, and a low pass filter and is configured to square an optical signal containing a tone and a sideband, and wherein a signal extractor of another of the at least two heterodyne receivers comprises two extraction paths and a combiner, each extraction path configured to process a sideband within an electrical signal." Independent claim 18 has been amended to recite "wherein the step of mixing comprises one of: mixing by a signal extractor comprising a bandpass filter, a square law device, and a low pass filter configured to square an optical signal containing a tone and a sideband and mixing by a signal extractor comprising two extraction paths and a combiner, each extraction path configured to process a sideband within an electrical signal."

Applicants respectfully submit that these claims, as amended, and the remainder of the claims which depend on them, are patentable over the cited references. Examiner admits that the primary reference, Watanabe does not disclose a signal extractor for mixing the frequency down-shifted subband with the frequency down-shifted tone. (Office Action, ¶7) Examiner asserts that Tshushima teaches mixing as part of a heterodyne detection device. (Id.) However, the claims as amended specifically elaborate upon how mixing may be accomplished. As such, even assuming *arguendo* that Examiner is correct, neither of the

references, alone or in combination with the other reference, discloses or suggests the invention as per the amended claims. Examiner's arguments are moot in light of the current claim amendments, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to expedite the prosecution of the application in a manner consistent with the Patent Office Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept. 8, 2000). In making these amendments, Applicants have not and do not narrow the scope of the protection to which Applicants consider the claimed invention to be entitled and do not concede that the subject matter of such claims was in fact disclosed or taught by the cited prior art. Rather, Applicants reserve the right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seeks to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

Applicants respectfully invite Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the number provided below if Examiner believes it will help expedite furtherance of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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